2. Krämergasse
Heidelberg (Baden)
Germany.

March 15. 1863

Dear Mr Garrison:

Your kind letter of the 16th ult. has come duly to hand, with the draft enclosed. I am truly sorry that it was the source of so much anxiety and trouble to you. I understand perfectly your position, and can only the more gratefully thank you for such kind consideration of my interests. The sacrifice was indeed great, but of course unavoidable — I only fear that in future remittances it will be still greater. However far removed from the scene of the great conflict, I can not escape all its consequences, and it would seem to me a species of cowardice to desire it.

In many respects I should have greatly preferred remaining at home, but I have a work before me — a work which must be done, and the doing of which will make me a part (however humble) of the spiritual power of the American nation — and therefore I dare not neg-

lect the preparation necessary thereto. This is not an excuse for being absent from the country at such a time, but a justification of that absence. I could have shed my blood on the battle-field as well as another — perhaps it does not require extraordinary courage to do that. I often think there will be a work for the generation just coming on the stage of action, calling for a courage scarcely less heroic than that which the abolitionists have manifested during the last thirty years. At any rate, if we are faithful, I am sure our path will not be strewn with roses. I am sure that the Church must more and more resolve itself into the life of the Nation. The ecclesiastical life of the people, and the national or political life thereof, are not henceforth to be two seperate and distinct things — the nation must become a true ecclesia, a real kingdom of God — henceforth there can be no such yawning gulfs between religion and politics. We have had quite enough of the Seventh-day-virtue. The people must be made to see that it is this which has brought upon us the present terrible retribution, and will forever bring

such in one form or another.

This is not for me a time of leisure and pleasure, but of very hard work and serious thought. It is a great privilege to be here, to have the time exclusively devoted to Study thus extended, and to be surrounded by such great advantages — I hope I shall be thoroughly faithful to the opportunity.

If possible, I will write to the Liberator. It would afford me great pleasure to do so. Had I time to devote to it, I think I could send you something of interest occasionally. I have an opportunity to see all the principal newspapers published on the continent every day. We have a very large Reading Room here. The excitement in regard to Poland has in a great measure withdrawn the attention of Continental papers from America. This is fortunate for us, for they were stupidly in the dark in regard to our affairs, and yet bound to give a judgment upon every event.

The glorious uprising of the working people in England is a great joy to me. I have always been satisfied that the

the moment the case was understood,
heart of the nation would be with us. Last
October I delivered an address "On
the American War" to a densely packed
audience in a town of about 5000 inhab
in Yorkshire, with the most gratifying re-
sults. I was led to do it from the general
ignorance on the subject which was revealed
to me in conversations held with various
persons. The mass of the audience was
composed of working men, who seemed for
the first time to comprehend the great
issue. Their enthusiasm was really
touching. When I had closed, one of the
mill-owners rose to say a good word for
the South — I having previously invited dis-
cussion. The people would scarcely hear
him — his voice was drowned by hisses and
groans until I interceded for him. This
one experience almost decided me to relin-
quish my studies for a time, & remain in
England, and devote myself to the diffusion
of the truth in regard to our affairs among
the working classes. It was only a want of
confidence in my own abilities which prevented
me. Thank God the work is now being well
done.

With the greatest love and affection
Always yours for truth and right
Thos. Vickers.